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Notes on [REDACTED] Talk

"Current Approach to Problems of Coordination
in the Intelligence Community"

In carrying out his responsibilities for coordinating the activities of the United States intelligence community placed on him by NSCID #1, the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) now has an Assistant for Coordination with a staff of ten senior officers drawn from several agencies, [REDACTED] Assistant for Coordination, Office of DCI, told the Clandestine Services Review class on 18 September 1961.

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Based on the authority of the National Security Act of 1947, which established the Central Intelligence Agency and provided that the Director of Central Intelligence coordinate the national intelligence efforts, the DCI formed an intelligence study group in May 1960 to examine problems in the intelligence community as they involved management of the national intelligence effort, the formulation and implementation of intelligence requirements and directives, and the evaluation of the intelligence effort.

In December 1960, this study group, known as the Kirkpatrick Committee, produced forty-three recommendations, with the major responsibility for the implementation of each placed on a particular agency in the intelligence field. Most of these recommendations, in such areas as reorganization, management, coordination, personnel, security, clandestine intelligence and research and development, were concurred in by the National Security Council. One of these, approved by President Eisenhower in January 1961, established the position of DCI's Assistant for Coordination with a permanent staff. While responsible to the DCI, the Assistant for Coordination has no responsibility or affiliation to any one agency but rather deals with interagency intelligence problems.

Another significant outcome of the work of the Kirkpatrick Committee is the establishment of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), to be activated 1 October 1961. The DIA will conduct all intelligence functions of the Department of Defense. It will develop and produce all Department of Defense estimates; assemble, integrate, and validate intelligence requirements; set up and maintain a central Department of Defense intelligence registry; plan and conduct the collection of intelligence by the Department of Defense; conduct counterintelligence; set up and run an indications center; carry out research and development useful in intelligence activities; plan for the training and career development of intelligence officers; cooperate with the Central Intelligence Agency to eliminate duplication in the intelligence effort; coordinate programs of automation in national intelligence; and prepare a consolidated budget.

Other approved recommendations call for the establishment of a career program in military intelligence activities, the creation of a central requirements facility to place intelligence requirements into a single series for the whole intelligence community, and the sharing of CIA's excellent training system as a service of common concern for all federal intelligence agencies.

Of major importance in the carrying out of the recommendations of the Kirkpatrick Committee has been their acceptance by the Kennedy Administration with the requirement that the Assistant for Coordination report to the President semi-annually on the progress made.

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